

PF 604,692	V3
<b>FILE CLOSED</b>	
S O L O M O N, MRS FLORA	
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S Form 924A	10409
PF 604,692	V3

SEE ALSO LIST INSIDE COVER

Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date
KV2/4635								
S. 960 Edn2								

**LIMITED CIRCULATION**

Please refer to S. Form 239 before sending this file to another Section.

S Form 238B

S Form 238

**Y FILE**

**THIS FILE WHEN IN TRANSIT  
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**HELD by R.5**

The file should be passed for P.A. to R.5.

PF 604,692	<b>FILE CLOSED</b>	V3
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PREVIOUS VOLUME CLOSED AT SERIAL: 113a DATED: 1.9.67.

PF.604692 Vol. 2

15.1.68

119a

120

11.4.68.

Ext. from interview report

120a

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121

5.6.68.

Ext. from interview report

121a

123

27.1.69

Note re interview of DANBY

123a

126

14.3.69

Ext. from interview report with ROTHSCHILDS

126a



Reference..... PF 604692

128

11.7.69

Ext from report of talk with ROTHSCHILDS

128a

129

27.10.69.

Letter from Mrs. Flora SOLOMON (Copy)

129a

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130

3.11.69

Note

130a

131

24.11.69.

Note for File

131a

132.

27.1.70

Note for file

132a

3.2.71

~~Ext. from Interview Report re Edith TUDOR HART~~

~~132b~~

Filed in error; see serial 134d

134

14.7.70

Note for File

134a

9.2.71

Ext. from Interview Report Re: Edith TUDOR HART

134d



141

15.10.71 From K36 Interview report with DANBY (extract) 141a

142

19.10.71 From MI6 142a

143

4.11.71 Summary & Assessment of Flora 143a

144

K3/0 through K3/7

You may wish to see the study of Flora  
SOLOMON's case at serial 143a.

*S. Rimington*  
S. Rimington

K.3/8

8.11.71

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Reference..... PF. 604, 692.....

135

5.7.71.


Note for file

135a

136

K3/6 BPa/7.

I have read your note at 135a with interest. Like so much else in the nebulous world of our work it cannot in the nature of things be conclusive; and I still think a question mark hangs over Flora SOLOMON's motives for coming forward. I find it impossible to decide between the merits of your two last sentences, and I can only hope that something may come to light in the course of our enquiries which will resolve the problem.



P.F. Stewart.

8th July 1971

K3/0

137

14.9.71

Loose Minute

137a

138

29.9.71

Note for File

138a

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141

15.10.71 From K36 Interview report with DANBY (extract)

141a

143

4.11.71 Summary & Assessment of Flora

143a

144

K3/0 through K3/7

You may wish to see the study of Flora  
SOLOMON's case at serial 143a.

*S. Rimington*  
S. Rimington

K.3/8

8.11.71

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ACT 1958 MARCH 2022



Reference..... PF 604,692

145

*a very thorough summary. What we now need*  
K.3/0 through K.3/2 is a fair counter to "ghost" her memoirs.

*B.3/2*  
*19/9/71.*

Minute 144.

2. In the report of my interview with DANBY (extensive extracts from which are at serial 141a) I suggested that what he said added up to a prima facie case for us to have another go at Flora SOLOMON. The conclusions of the comprehensive - and in my view penetrating - study of Flora's case by Stella Rimington (143a) support this suggestion.

3. I am in general agreement with Mrs. Rimington's thoughts on Flora's motivation in talking when and as she did in 1962 about PHILBY, but we are not in a position to go very far in the case of her allegations to Lord ROTHSCHILD that DANBY was a Russian agent; there is at present no basis upon which to reconcile Flora's account of her relationship with DANBY and DANBY's account of his relationship with Flora. Apart from this, there are many other things we would like to clear up.

4. I think you will wish to show Mrs. Rimington's study to K/Adviser and perhaps after that we could have a discussion about the next move.

*E. W. Pratt*  
E. W. Pratt

K.3/7

9th November, 1971

146

*PM9.*  
K/Adviser

You will wish to read Mrs. Rimington's admirable summary of Flora SOLOMON at 143a. I suspect that there are things which she could tell us if she could be persuaded to talk, and to talk lucidly; but if VR's current assessment is correct and she is mentally unbalanced, then it appears

/we.....



Minute 146 contd:

we may have lost our chance. Nevertheless I think it would be worth noting the points we would have liked to explore with her and then consider whether it would be worth approaching her again.

2. The most important points appear to me to be:-

(a) The question of Flora SOLOMON's own involvement. According to her own story she lost all sympathy with Russia at the time of the Molotov/Ribbentrop pact; and she told Arthur Martin that if she had been approached in 1951 she would have told what she knew of PHILBY's connections with the RIS. Is her failure to come forward, if not at that time, but after the Hungarian Revolution, LONSDALE, BLAKE etc explicable in terms of her personality (and a possible emotional involvement - even though she denied it - with PHILBY) or does it suggest that she had at one time, and remained subsequently, under some measure of RIS control? I think that all our experience shows that 1951 was not the traumatic moment we now think it was, and that the innocent as well as the guilty failed to come forward and tell what they knew because they were dominated by the ethos of the thirties. I do not think, however, this is applicable to Flora SOLOMON - an emotional, dominating, cosmopolitan Jewess - and indeed her own explanation to Arthur Martin (pp 36 & 37 of 78a) is different - it just wasn't her business. The British and the Americans had their intelligence services with large numbers working in them, and who was she to give away youthful confidences? She opted out. This is a pretty feeble excuse, and I wonder whether she would not have produced a more convincing tale if she had been under control. My own guess is that it is basically true, but that in addition there was a residual emotional tie to the personable young man who, according to her sister, swept her off her feet at the end of her affair with KERENSKY.

/(b).....



Reference PF.604692

Minute 146 contd:

(b) Flora SOLOMON's motives for coming forward in 1962. I have little to add to the theories put forward by Mrs. Rimington, which we have discussed on numerous occasions, except to draw attention to what appears to me the most significant fact of all. In 1966, shortly after her return from the visit to Israel when she was seen by Kennan she told Manya HARARI that "she had once before been asked for information on PEACH while she was on a visit to Israel; this had been some years earlier, when she had been told that PEACH was working against Israeli interests in the surrounding Arab countries and that she could help by passing on anything she knew about him". (Para 4 of 104a). I find it very difficult to believe that this is not the origin of Flora SOLOMON's original approach to Victor ROTHCHILD. If this is so, then the vital question obviously is - who made this approach? If she could be persuaded whether by flattery or some other provocation, to remember and to tell us who it was, and what she knew about him or her, then I think we might have gone some way towards assessing whether the denunciation was a KGB ploy designed to force PHILBY to defect, or was evidence of a genuine change of heart. This in turn might be some help in making up our minds about her earlier position.

3. Whether we should have a go and try to extract further information from Flora SOLOMON, as suggested by Mr. Pratt, depends in my view on her mental condition. If she is really unbalanced (which I have thought was the probable explanation of her neurosis about DANBY) then not only are we unlikely to get anything out of her, but we might find it difficult to evaluate what we do get. An approach with a limited objective - viz. to seek information about the earlier approach in Israel - might give us an opportunity of considering whether we were justified in taking the questioning further. Perhaps we could discuss with Mr. Pratt and Mrs. Rimington?

*P. F. Stewart*  
P. F. Stewart

K.3/0

13.12.71

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PF. 604, 692.

Photostat of Passport Papers  
in respect of Mrs. Flora SOLOMON







Howe

Enoch

PF604, 60/2

KV2/4635



NOTE.—Do not sign this form until you have read instructions, Page 1, Para. E.

2

Surname (in block capitals)		National Reg. No.	
Christian Names (in full; in block capitals)			Age last birthday
Maiden Name (in block capitals)		Place of birth	Date of birth
Place of marriage	Date of marriage	If married after 1st January 1949 state nationality at date of marriage.	
If not British at date of marriage state (a) number (b) place (c) date of registra- tion as a British subject	(Number)	(Place)	(Date)
State whether married more than once.....		If so, particulars relating to the previous marriage or marriages should be given on page 4.	
Signature of Wife.			
NOTE.—To be signed in the presence of an Examining Officer or Witness. (See Para. E of instructions.)			

Christian Names (in full)	Surname	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	Sex and relationship to applicant

(To be signed **in the presence** of an Examining Officer or witness: see Para. E. of Instructions).

**Note.**—If you have had a passport which has been lost delete C and D and complete Section 11 on page 4 of this form.

1 Photographs of applicant (and wife if to be included in the passport), and  
 \*2 All relevant documents as noted below examined, and in order \*to be  
 3 Signature in Section 8 (and Section 6 if applicable) witnessed and compared with signature on  
 National Registration Identity Card.

\* Delete word "except" if all documents are in order

I certify that the applicant is known personally to me, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the facts stated on this form are correct and that the above declaration (Section 8) has been signed by him/her in my presence. I am a British subject.

Signature W. Wilson Date 5-25-60  
 Printed Name W. Wilson Shortened Accounts to \_\_\_\_\_

Address 89 Baker St. W.I.

**IMPORTANT.**— Applicants and witnesses (see Section 10), are warned that should any statement

**IMPORTANT.**— Applicants and witnesses (see Section 10), are warned that should any statement contained in their respective declarations prove to be untrue, the consequences to them may be serious.



11 (See Note, Section 8, overleaf). **PARTICULARS OF PREVIOUS PASSPORT WHICH HAS BEEN LOST OR IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR PRESENT USE**

No. 339581 issued at Foreign Office on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 1940

Bearer's Names Solomon Flora

Circumstances in which passport was lost or destroyed, or other reason for its non-availability.  
expired

Place and date of loss.....

What measures were taken at the time to report loss and to obtain recovery?

Has loss been reported to the Police?.....

I certify that the above particulars are correct and undertake in the event of the passport coming again into my possession to return it to the Passport Office, London, or to a British Consulate for cancellation.

Date 3/5/50 Signed Flora Solomon

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

FOR PASSPORT OFFICE USE ONLY.

ISSUE

B.S.  
WKEBRITISH EMPIRE  
EUROPE ETC.

USA v Israel

Sh. Rose

3/5/50

FEE PAID



Please write your name here

(Surname) SOLOMON (Christian Names) Flora

**Form "A" Application for a United Kingdom Passport**

**IMPORTANT.** Please read instructions carefully before completing the form. The attention of applicants is especially drawn to the British Nationality Act, 1948, which entered into force 1st January, 1949, and established a status of citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies by birth, descent, annexation, registration or naturalisation.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

The charge for a passport is 15s., which must be paid in cash or by postal order at the time of application. Where the husband and wife are included on a joint passport the charge covers both.

NOTE—A Passport cannot be issued or renewed by the Passport Office, on behalf of a person already abroad; such a person should apply, in a foreign country, to the nearest British Mission or Consulate, or, if residing in any part of the British Commonwealth outside the United Kingdom or Great Britain and Northern Ireland, should apply to the nearest Passport issuing authority.

**HOW TO COMPLETE FORM**

(A) Males (married or single) and women who have **NOT** been married (16 years of age or over). Complete Sections 1, 2, 5 and 8, and if appropriate to their own application, Section 4. A married man who wishes to include his wife in his passport should complete also Section 6, his wife signing that Section in the space provided. A passport which includes particulars of the holder's wife is not available for the wife's use when she is travelling alone. Married women who are not British subjects cannot be included on husband's passport.

(B) Married women of any age (including widows and women whose marriage has been terminated). If a separate passport is required, complete Sections 1, 2, 3(a), 5 and 8, and if appropriate to their case, Sections 3(b) and 4.

(C) Children under 16 years of age will normally be included (without extra charge) on the passport of the parent who, in completing the application form, must also enter particulars of the children under Section 7. The consent of the father or other legal guardian is required for the inclusion of a child on the passport of any other person.

Application for the addition of children to an existing passport should be made by completing a Child Addition Form.

Should a separate passport be required for a child under 16 to reside or travel abroad, application by his father or other legal guardian should be made on Form "B."

(D) Personal Description. The description of the applicant (and of the wife, if to be included on the passport) should be entered in block capitals in the "Personal description" space included with this application form. The "Personal description" form should also be completed and signed at the foot.

(E) Signing the form. The application form must be signed in Section 8 by the applicant (and in Section 6 by the wife if to be included in the passport) in the presence of the examining officer at one of the three Passport Offices or at any Local or Resettlement Advice Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Note—If the applicant cannot attend at any of these Offices, he or she can have his or her signature witnessed by a Member of Parliament, Justice of the Peace, Minister of Religion, member of the medical or legal profession, Bank Officer, or a Senior Public Official to whom applicant is personally known, who should complete Section 10 and certify on the reverse side of one of the photographs that it is a true likeness of the applicant. (Wife's photograph to be certified similarly if she is to be included in the passport.)

**DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED**

(F) Note—Any applicant (other than a naturalised or registered person) who surrenders with this application a previous passport establishing his/her identity and nationality will not normally be required to produce any other document except the National Registration Identity Card, unless the applicant's name or status has been changed, or unless the applicant was born outside the United Kingdom and Colonies as constituted on 1st January 1949. See (iv) and (v).

(i) Males (married or single) and women who have not been married should produce birth certificate, certificate of naturalisation or registration as a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies as the case may require, National Registration Identity Card or current Armed Forces Identity document. If a married man wishes to include his wife on his passport he should produce the marriage certificate, her birth certificate and National Registration Identity Card and, where relevant, her naturalisation or registration certificate.

(ii) Married women (including widows and women whose marriage has been terminated) applying for separate passports should produce documents specified in (i) above, together with marriage certificate.

Women who are British by marriage only must also produce the husband's (or former husband's) birth certificate, or other evidence of his British nationality. Where a previous marriage has been dissolved, the applicant may be required to produce the final decree of divorce or annulment.

**(iii) Children**

Under 16 to be included in the passport. The children's birth certificates. If the applicant is not the father, proof of legal guardianship or a letter of consent from the father or other legal guardian is required.

16 years of age and under 21. Documents as for males and single women (see Paragraph (i) above); the written consent of father or other legal guardian is also required, except where the applicant is married or a member of H.M. Forces.

NOTE—Where an Order has been made by the High Court or by a Magistrate regarding the custody of a child such Order must be produced.

(iv) Change of Name. If the applicant has changed his or her name the deed poll recording the change or other evidence to show how and when it was changed must also be submitted. A fresh National Registration Identity Card in a new name is regarded as evidence that a change of name has been effected.

(v) Persons born outside the United Kingdom and Colonies as constituted on 1st January 1949 must complete Section 4 and may be required to produce documentary evidence in support of the statements made therein.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

(G) Two copies of a recent photograph of the applicant (and also of the photograph of the applicant's wife where a joint passport is applied for) must be included with the application. These photographs must be taken full face without hat, and the photographs must not be mounted. The size of the photographs must not be more than 2½ inches by 2 inches or less than 2 inches by 1½ inches. The photographs must be printed on normal thin photographic paper and must not be glazed on the reverse side. The examining officer (or witness) is also required to endorse the reverse side of one copy of the photograph with the words: "I certify that this is a true likeness of the applicant Mr. (Mrs. or Miss) . . ." and add his signature.

Where a joint passport is applied for, one copy of the wife's photograph should be similarly certified.

**HOW TO MAKE APPLICATION****(H) Personal application**

To facilitate the issue of passports, applicants are recommended to make personal application to any one of the Passport Offices (addresses given below) or at any Local or Resettlement Advice Office of Ministry of Labour and National Service.

LONDON.—1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, London, S.W.1. (Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

LIVERPOOL.—Exchange Flags, Liverpool. (Hours: 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

GLASGOW.—10, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, C.2. (Hours: 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

MINISTRY OF LABOUR LOCAL OFFICE. (Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

The Passport Offices are also open for cases of special emergency only, between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. (Saturdays 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.) and in London on Sundays and Public Holidays between 10 a.m. and noon.

The relevant sections of the application form should be completed and this form, together with the personal description form, and the necessary documents, taken personally to one of these Offices. The fee of 15s. should also be paid at any Office.

**(I) Postal applications**

If it is not possible to make personal application at one of the Passport Offices or Ministry of Labour Local Offices, the completed, signed and witnessed form with certified photographs and documents (excepting National Registration Identity Card) should be forwarded, together with a postal order for 15s., to one of the three Passport Offices whose address is given above. (N.B.—Cheques cannot be accepted.)

(J) Applicants resident in Northern Ireland should in all cases apply by post to the Passport Office, Exchange Flags, Liverpool.



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This file summary does not necessarily include all significant information and should not be used as a substitute for study of the whole file if a comprehensive picture is required.

Summary and Assessment of the Case  
of Flora SOLOMON

Personal Particulars

Born: 28.9.98 at Ruisk, Russia

Career: Welfare Superintendent,  
Marks & Spencer Ltd.

Addresses: 32a Addison Road, London, W114  
1940-: 103 Carrington House,  
Hertford Street, W.1

Married: 21.6.1919: Col. Harold Josiah  
SOLOMON (d.1930)

Family: Father: Grigori Ossopovitch  
BENENSON (SZ/2117)  
Mother: Sophie  
Sisters: Fira (later Countess  
IL'INSKAYA)  
Marie (later Mrs. Ralph  
HARARI) (PF.749454)

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I. Background to Security Service Interest in  
Flora SOLOMON

1. Until 1952 there was no file in this office for Flora SOLOMON. In 1951 and 1952 as a result of the telechecks then operating on Kim PHILBY's home she came to our notice as an old friend of Aileen PHILBY, so a file for her was opened. It was then found that there were various fairly inconsequential traces of her going back to the 1920s. In 1953 information which came to us from Aileen PHILBY indicated that Flora SOLOMON had known Kim PHILBY since the 1930s and had in fact introduced Aileen and Kim PHILBY.

2. In July 1962 Flora approached Victor ROTHCHILD in Israel and told him that she had known at the time of the Spanish Civil War that PHILBY was working for the Russians and that he had tried to recruit her to assist.

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In August 1962 she was interviewed by this Service and repeated and expanded her story but completely denied that she had personally ever been involved in espionage and refused to answer questions about anyone other than PHILBY. Since then Flora SOLOMON has been seen on several occasions by members of this Service, [redacted] but she has never added substantially to her original story. Nor have any of our other enquiries thrown much more light on her part in the PHILBY story or whether she was ever involved with the RIS.

3. I have divided the following account of her security history into chronological periods and within each have placed side by side her own account of the period and what we know of her from other sources, in an attempt to find discrepancies or fruitful lines of further enquiry. It is necessary to bear in mind, however, that in her own account the chronology is often very confused.

## II. Security Information

### Early History

4. Flora SOLOMON's own account of her early history is that she came to England from Russia via Paris in 1915 with her family. After marrying an English Army Officer her whole outlook on life became British and she grew to love England. Her main interest in life however was Jewry and became Zionism (her father was a great friend of Dr. WEITZMANN, first President of Israel), something for which she thinks there is no place in England.

5. Our only contemporary information about this period in her life comes from investigations made in the 1920s into the activities of her father. He was said by some unconfirmed reports to be a Bolshevik agent though others described him merely as a shady businessman. A Special Branch report of 1925 described Flora as "as bad as her father and mother, the last named the most terrible creature, capable of anything". Flora's husband is described as a screen for her father in his business affairs.

### COMMENT

For a note on Grigori BENENSON, Flora SOLOMON's father, and his business affairs see Annexe A.

Harold Josiah SOLOMON, Flora's husband (N/T) was born in London in 1888. He became an officer in the Army Service Corps in 1907 and resigned in 1920. In 1930 he was Chairman of the Anglo-Palestinian Club. He died in July 1930.

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TOP SECRET

/Palestine.....



**TOP SECRET**Palestine

6. Flora SOLOMON said that it was in Palestine that she first met Kim PHILBY, who, then only a child, was there with his parents. From Harold SOLOMON's Army Papers it appears that he (and presumably also his wife) was in Palestine in 1921. A Special Branch report of 1925 indicates that Harold SOLOMON worked with Sir Herbert SAMUEL during his period as High Commissioner in Palestine.

COMMENT

Herbert Louis SAMUEL, later Viscount SAMUEL, was High Commissioner to Palestine from 1920 to 1925.

From 1930 to Spanish Civil WarFlora SOLOMON's Story

7. Flora SOLOMON's story of her life in the early '30s given to Arthur Martin and Lord ROTHSCILD when she was interviewed by them in August 1962 was as follows. She said that the years up to the outbreak of war were muddled years for her as they were, she thought, for most people. There was a general revolt about life, situations, etc., but politics did not really seem to enter into it. At the time she was very active and busy doing an interesting, full-time job.

COMMENT

She eventually became Personnel Director of Marks & Spencer

She was probably quite a stimulating person at that time. She had a comfortable house with a garden to which lots of young people came so she was always surrounded by a lively atmosphere. She was also at this period having an ardent affair with Alexander KERENSKY who was at the time living in Paris. She used to go frequently to Paris to see him and for a time had a flat of her own there; he used also frequently to come to London to visit her. Although she was passionately in love with him she did not agree with him politically; she felt he was unsuited to be a leader and that in any case Russia would never return to a liberal regime. Nevertheless she used to help him with his work, and in particular with the paper he published in Paris.

COMMENT

For a note on Alexander KERENSKY see Annexe B. We do not know when Flora SOLOMON's affair with KERENSKY began and ended although we know from his file that in 1933 on a visit to England he gave her Addison Road address as his destination. KERENSKY's file for 1933-1940 was destroyed.

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TOP SECRET

- 4 -

8. It was at this period that, according to her account, Flora SOLOMON met Kim PHILBY (Comment: Probably either 1935 or 1936). She became great friends with him and he developed a great attachment for her - the infatuation of a young man for an older woman. Neither at this nor any other time, however, was she his mistress. She looked upon PHILBY as having the left-wing views normal among young people at that period. By this time Kim was married to Lizy and although Flora got to know her a little she never liked her much, finding her personality secretive and non-buoyant. Very shortly after Flora met Kim again she also met Guy BURGESS; she always wondered what Kim saw in him, as she found him always drunk and dirty. Tommy HARRIS and his wife Hilda also came into Flora's life through Kim. She met them before the war, probably about 1937, but they were not close friends, merely social contacts. Tommy used to visit her with Kim.

COMMENT

Tomas HARRIS (PF.604643).  
At a later interview Flora said that the first time she saw HARRIS and PHILBY together was shortly after the fall of France. BLUNT said that he met HARRIS in 1932 or 1933, introduced him to BURGESS about 1935 and to PHILBY shortly afterwards. HARRIS said he did not meet PHILBY until 1940.

Information from other sources

9. A rather different version of the beginnings of Flora SOLOMON's involvement with the PHILBY circle comes from her sister Marie HARARI. In a conversation in 1967 Mrs. HARARI said that Flora SOLOMON had had a passionate affair with Alexander KERENSKY. By about 1934 the affair was on the wane and Flora was also disillusioned about KERENSKY's political ideas. When PHILBY came along he swept her off her feet. According to Mrs. HARARI, Flora SOLOMON has an area of her mind of a vast and limitless stupidity which makes her liable to be used by dangerous people.

COMMENT

For a note on Mrs. HARARI see  
Annexe C.

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10. In 1953 office certain information about Flora SOLOMON to this

Neither the information itself nor its source was very clearly explained but it probably came immediately from Aileen PHILBY though where she had learned it we do not know. The gist, as far as this period is concerned, was that Flora SOLOMON was for many years KERENSKY's mistress and later during the 1930s she

TOP SECRET



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- 5 -

became PHILBY's mistress. [redacted] said further that Aileen PHILBY had told his wife long ago that Flora SOLOMON was a Communist.

11. The only contemporary information we have about Flora SOLOMON during this period is that in 1935 her name was given as a referee by Ifigenie SOKOLOFF when she applied in Paris for a visa to visit the UK. She was accompanied to the Passport Office in Paris by Flora SOLOMON with whom she intended to stay in England.

#### Spanish Civil War to Outbreak of Second World War

##### Flora SOLOMON's Story

12. At the interview in August 1962 Flora SOLOMON said that when the Spanish Civil War broke out Kim PHILBY went to Spain. She was surprised and shocked when she heard that he was on Franco's side as most of her friends sympathised with the Republicans and up till then PHILBY had also been left-wing. PHILBY as a journalist went backwards and forwards between Spain and England. On one occasion a friend of hers was in great distress because a relation had been imprisoned by Franco. She mentioned this to PHILBY who volunteered to help free him. One day she received a message to go to The Times and there was given a typewritten message to say that the young man had been released. When Kim returned and she questioned him he hinted that he was not really pro-Franco. From then on he began to confide in her, never fully, but always just hinting.

13. From then on, Flora SOLOMON said, she began to see quite a lot of PHILBY and he frequently stayed in her house. He was on bad terms with Lizy at this time.

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3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

##### COMMENT

She dated this as 1937 but it is more



TOP SECRET

- 6 -

likely to have been 1938 as PHILBY was in England only between April and May 1937.

His attachment to her grew but although she was very fond of him she was too occupied with her own affairs and there was too great an age gap for her to have any relationship with him.

14. After his assignment to Spain was over (she thought this was in 1938, after Munich) he rang her up in a state of great agitation. They had lunch together in a restaurant and there he told her that he was working for the Russians and that he was in danger and living on his nerves. He tried to enlist her help but she refused saying that underground work was not her type of work and did not interest her. She was neither horrified nor shocked nor in any way impressed. She was ideologically confused at the time. She was rebellious as a result of the restriction of the immigration of Jews into Palestine and horrified by Munich. Although she would never have actively helped PHILBY in this work because Communist methods were abhorrent to her, her sympathies were quite definitely on his side. In July 1962 when she first approached Lord ROTHSCHILD, Flora SOLOMON said that PHILBY had tried to recruit her to report on the White Russian communities in the UK but she did not repeat this specific information at the later interview.

#### COMMENT

In a conversation with her sister in 1966 Flora SOLOMON said that she first suspected PHILBY when he received a medal from Franco. But this was not until 1940.

15. Shortly after this lunch according to Flora SOLOMON she received a semi-code telegram from Paris which appeared to be calling her to a meeting there. She did not think for a moment that the telegram had anything to do with KERENSKY, although he was in Paris; he would never have sent such a thing. She asked PHILBY if this had anything to do with his attempt to enlist her help and he hinted that it had. She was so busy at the time with her job, her refugee work, her visits to Paris, her friends and her son at Eton that her brain was not in a condition to dwell on the telegram and she did nothing about it.

16. We have no contemporary information about Flora SOLOMON during the period between 1937 and 1939 nor any comments from third parties which are relevant to this period.

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ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

TOP SECRET War-time.....



TOP SECRET

- 7 -

War Time

17. The story which Flora SOLOMON told of the war-time period can be divided for our purposes into three sections: 1) Information about herself and her attitude to the war and the Russians 2) her involvement with PHILBY and his friends 3) her involvement with others of security interest. Although for this period we have a little more information from other sources against which to place her story it is still by no means easy to judge the truth of it.

Flora SOLOMON's Story

18. Flora SOLOMON says that her life during the war was one of frenzied activity and involvement. She said that as soon as the Molotov/Ribbentrop Pact was signed all her sympathy for Russia evaporated. Although she continued to work for M & S she felt an increasing desire to devote her energies to helping the war effort; so much so that on one occasion she told her boss, Simon Marks, that she wished to leave to do full time war work. He would not let her go telling her to combine war work with her M & S work. As a result of this advice she thought up the idea of British Restaurants and dashed round the country opening restaurants where there was a need, using M & S staff to man them. As well as this she worked with the "very secret department" housed during the war in M & S Headquarters in Michael House, Baker Street, on problems of feeding and shelter. She had, she claimed, no idea what they were doing and did not wish to know. Along with all this activity at work she still had a busy social life. When she moved in 1940 from Addison Road to a flat in Carrington House, Mayfair, the flat became, she said, like a sort of Euston Station, with crowds of people collecting there in the evenings.

COMMENT

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ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

The secret department in Michael House was SOE which, during the war, occupied a large number of office buildings between Portman Square and Baker Street.

19. Among the people who came to her flat during the war years was PHILBY. He, having gone to France in September 1939, returned immediately after Dunkirk. At first, she said, he treated her as a Mother Confessor and confided in her but later he became morose and secretive and increasingly unsympathetic to Zionism. PHILBY used very frequently to bring his friends to her flat, sometimes in parties but sometimes individually, in what, according to her, were obviously "vetting" exercises, designed to test their suitability for recruitment for intelligence purposes. She understood from words he dropped that he was still working for the Russians although apparently this was never specifically stated.

TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

- 8 -

20. Of the friends whom PHILBY brought the only one she reckoned was involved in his work for the Russians was Tomas HARRIS. She claimed to have had no evidence for this but merely to have concluded it because he was so unobvious a person. Being a rich picture collector who spent a lot of time in Spain he did not seem to fit in with the rest of the group but he was a very close friend of PHILBY's. At a much later interview (in 1966 after Tomas HARRIS's death) Flora said that she learned from a friend of hers who knew one of HARRIS's sisters that HARRIS had been courier and contact man for PHILBY in Spain. Of the other friends whom PHILBY brought, of whom there were legions, she commented that she knew Anthony BLUNT well personally; he was a great friend.

COMMENT

For a note on Tomas HARRIS see para.8.

21. Flora SOLOMON also described how she had been responsible for introducing PHILBY to Aileen FURSE, who later became his second wife.

COMMENT

PHILBY and Aileen were married in 1946. Flora SOLOMON was a witness to the marriage as was Tomas HARRIS.

Aileen, Flora's assistant at M & S, became very attached to her and frequently stayed with her. She was staying there in fact when PHILBY returned from Dunkirk and, shortly after that meeting, the two young people started to live together in Flora's house in Addison Road which she lent to them and which they shared with Guy BURGESS until Flora asked him to leave because of his anti-Jewish attitude. Flora claims to have warned PHILBY that Aileen was mentally unstable but he was determined to be associated with her and merely became angry at the warning. Flora SOLOMON asserted that PHILBY's involvement with Aileen was mainly to provide a respectable facade for his life. He refused to divorce Lizy to marry Aileen, however, claiming Lizy would find it difficult to live in this country if he did. Flora thought this was ridiculous as Lizy had a British passport. She thought the real reason for his concern might have been that PHILBY had to protect her as his link with the Russians. She had always thought that the Lizy/Kim PHILBY relationship was a business partnership. In contrast she was sure that Aileen never knew PHILBY's secret.

22. Before Aileen FURSE began to live with PHILBY she had lived with Frank BIRCH and it was, according to Flora's story, through BIRCH that PHILBY first went

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3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

- 9 -

into intelligence work. She was sure that Frank had not the slightest idea what PHILBY's real ideology was, and she did not tell him.

COMMENT

Frank BIRCH who wrote under the name of Francis LYALL (no file but references in PF.604584) was born on 5.12.1889 and died in 1956. He was in Naval Intelligence from 1916 to 1919; was a lecturer in History at Cambridge from 1921 to 1928; and from 1939 was in GCHQ.

23. Flora SOLOMON said that after PHILBY and Aileen began to live together Lizy PHILBY still maintained contact with Flora SOLOMON; she lived in the same house as a relation of Flora's German refugee housekeeper. Lizy, according to Flora, came several times to see her to ask if she could help in M & S or in war work. In Lizzy's contact with Flora there was always the sous entendre that Flora knew what her real role was.

24. Apart from her association with PHILBY and his friends Flora SOLOMON claimed to have received an intelligence approach from a British Communist during the war. She did not enlarge on this apart from saying that although she turned it down it frightened her because she then "saw the significance of the interest various people had been taking in her".

25. When she was asked if she knew Edith TUDOR-HART, Flora SOLOMON replied that she thought the name rang a bell but she did not know her.

COMMENT

Edith TUDOR-HART identified a photograph of Flora SOLOMON when it was shown to her in February 1971. TUDOR-HART (PF.63,349) is thought to have been recruited by and worked for the RIS in Vienna between 1931 and 1933. She is thought to have known and probably worked with Lizy PHILBY in Vienna although she denies this. She is also thought to have been used by the RIS in the UK in about 1936 but her activities here were probably limited to her occasional use as a cut-out.

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ACT 1958

MARCH 2022

Information from other live sources

26. Confirmation of Frank BIRCH's part in introducing PHILBY to intelligence work

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TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

- 10 -

appears that the original introduction was at Flora SOLOMON's instigation.

On 3rd September 1939 Flora asked her to get BIRCH to come to lunch the following day to meet someone who wanted to do intelligence work. On 4th September the lunch was attended by Aileen and BIRCH, Eric STRAUSS, PHILBY and Flora. Afterwards BIRCH saw PHILBY alone and thought him quite suitable for intelligence work but thought he had too good a job at the time for him to try to recruit him. On 27th September 1939 a vetting enquiry about PHILBY came to this Service from [REDACTED]

#### COMMENT

Eric STRAUSS (no file) was a consultant psychiatrist.

There is a report that he might have been a Communist as an undergraduate at Oxford (he matriculated in 1918). He died in 1961 and left his money to his sister, an open member of the CPGB.

27. In 1965 Anthony BLUNT volunteered the information that in 1951, after Guy BURGESS defected, he had extracted from BURGESS's papers a letter to a woman from PHILBY saying that she could talk to BURGESS as freely as to him. BLUNT had known of the existence of this letter since it had first been written and in conversation with him BURGESS had told him that the woman was not involved in "the game". She must, he thought, have known quite clearly what PHILBY was doing. BLUNT professed to be unable to remember the woman's name but from various hints it seemed obvious he was referring to Flora SOLOMON. BLUNT said he did not know her well but thought he remembered going to her flat for a drink with BURGESS or possibly PHILBY.

28. Dudley DANBY who was interviewed in 1969 and 1971 confirmed that Flora SOLOMON held soirees at her flat. He said that she liked to collect round her young people who were associated with prominent people. Her guests were a varied bunch and included top M & S people like the Sieffs and the Marks, Zionists like the Weizmanns and politicians such as Sidney Silverman. He also met PHILBY and Aileen there. PHILBY was introduced first as a newspaper correspondent but it later became known that he was in intelligence. Flora's guests were all Zionists according to DANBY and he did not see how PHILBY fitted in. DANBY did not recall meeting Tomas HARRIS, though he might have met BURGESS once or twice and was not sure whether he had met BLUNT there or not.

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ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

- 11 -

COMMENT

Dudley DANBY (PF.607283) was Private Secretary to Lord Lloyd at the British Council and later at the Colonial Office from 1938 to 1941. He was in SOE in the Middle East during the war and after the war became Headmaster of the English schools in Cairo, Port Said and Abadan successively. He was a friend of Dr. WEIZMANN and through him became acquainted with Flora SOLOMON of whom he was a neighbour in Carrington House.

30. Peter SMOLLETT said when he was interviewed in June 1968 that he had met Flora SOLOMON through his sister-in-law Anita KAUFMANN who worked as a parlour maid for friends of Flora's during the war.

COMMENT

Peter SMOLLETT @ SMOLKA (PF.39,680) was identified by KAGO as a KGB agent recruited in the 1930s. He was born in Vienna and educated at Vienna University before going to L.S.E. in 1930. He joined M.O.I. in 1939 and became Director of the Soviet Relations Division in 1943. He knew Lizy PHILBY from at least 1934. Papers found in BURGESS's flat after his defection in 1951 included documents originating with SMOLLETT. In 1968 he confessed that he knew the documents were going to the Russians but denied he was ever recruited.

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ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

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TOP SECRET

- 12 -

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3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

33. In 1939 Flora SOLOMON reported to the police her suspicions of a German, Elizabeth HAAS, who was employed at M & S, and was found copying confidential ARP instructions and going through records of employees.

Post War

34. We have no further security information about Flora SOLOMON until the time of the BURGESS/MACLEAN defection in 1951.

35. In late 1951 and early 1952 we learned from the telephone checks on PHILBY's home that Aileen PHILBY had been several times in touch with Flora SOLOMON in an attempt to persuade her to find a job in M & S for PHILBY. We learned in 1953

that Aileen had been promised a job for PHILBY in M & S by a contact of hers there. This person had consulted Flora SOLOMON, however, and as a result no job was available.

TOP SECRET/36.....



- 13 -

36. In 1953 we learned [redacted] that Flora SOLOMON's name was on a list of names presumed to be those of possible contacts in the UK found in the possession of Natalia DROHOJOWSKA, who was suspected of espionage [redacted]

37. In December 1953 [redacted] first told us of Flora SOLOMON's connection with PHILBY and Aileen in the 1930s and '40s. He said also that Flora was the mistress of Dr. Eric STRAUSS [redacted] STRAUSS knew, he said, a great deal more about security suspicion of BURGESS, PHILBY and MACLEAN than he had any right to. He was presumed to have got the information from Flora SOLOMON.

38. In 1967 we learned [redacted] that Flora SOLOMON was a close friend of George WEIDENFELD. She had acted as Mother Confessor to him during the 1950s when he had been unofficial adviser on European affairs to Harold Wilson and George Brown.

#### COMMENT

George WEIDENFELD (PF.604363) is an Austrian Jew who came to the UK as a political refugee in 1938. His first wife was Jane Sieff of Marks & Spencer. He is an ardent Zionist and supporter of Israel and was Political Adviser to President WEIZMANN for a few months in 1950. He is a keen socialite and has particularly cultivated the acquaintanceship of prominent members of the Labour Party. He has been described as a near Communist. He visited Russia in Autumn 1959 and has had a number of Czech contacts in the publishing business since 1965.

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ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

40. In July 1962 Flora SOLOMON approached Victor ROTHSCHILD in Israel and told him: 1) that she knew at the time of the Spanish Civil War that PHILBY was working for the Russians and that he had tried to recruit her to help and 2) that PHILBY was now writing violently anti-Israel articles, she thought on Russian instructions. On 19th July 1962 Victor ROTHSCHILD interviewed her in London to prepare the way for the detailed interview by Arthur Martin which took place on 1st August 1962. (The information she gave at these interviews is recorded above in its chronological sequence). The reasons Flora SOLOMON gave for coming forward with her information at that point after keeping it to herself so

TOP SECRET /1 onk.....



TOP SECRET

- 14 -

long were: 1) that she was getting old and wished to clear her conscience 2) that she had become disillusioned with Russia and thought what they were doing was dangerous and should be stopped and 3) that she thought PHILBY was working for the Arab cause to damage Israel, as an example of which she mentioned articles he had written in 'The Observer'. She said that if anyone had asked her in 1951 she would have told her story but coming forward voluntarily then was too much for her.

41. Flora SOLOMON was most anxious that no one should know that she had told her story. One reason, she said, was that she had been invited by the Russian Trade Unions to go to Russia to give advice on their shops and she did not want the Russians to know what she had told the authorities.

42. In 1967 we learned from [redacted] travel records that Yuriy MODIN travelled from USSR to Iraq in June 1962 and departed from Beirut for Vienna in August 1962.

COMMENT

Yuriy Ivanovich MODIN (PF.70,617) was, according to BLUNT, BURGESS's controller in May 1951 and arranged the flight of BURGESS and MACLEAN from this country. On a later occasion MODIN made contact with BLUNT in order to get in touch with PHILBY who was, he said, in a panic. This visit of MODIN's to the Middle East was made at about the time when Flora SOLOMON first told her story to Lord ROTHSCCHILD in Israel and covers the period when she was first interviewed by this Service.

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3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET

- 15 -

46. In April 1968 BLUNT reported that Phoebe POOL had told Willie TOWNSEND recently that he must not go to Carrington Street. (He) suggested that she might have meant Carrington House (i.e. Flora's flat). Phoebe POOL had given TOWNSEND the impression that it was some form of rendezvous.

COMMENT

Phoebe POOL (PF.760502) has suffered a series of nervous breakdowns which appeared to be connected with her knowledge of the undercover activities of certain of her Oxford contemporaries. She is given to making prophetic utterances the significance of which is obscure. *2 Dec 48 - Suicide*

47. In 1967 Flora SOLOMON volunteered the information that Dudley DANBY had been a close friend of PHILBY's in Beirut in 1962. In 1969 she told Lord ROTHSCHILD that she suspected that DANBY was engaging in intelligence activities; the implication was that these were on behalf of Russia. She had known him in the 1940s but had not seen him for many years. Recently he had suddenly tried repeatedly to contact her and this frightened her. She told Lord ROTHSCHILD this story again in January 1970.

COMMENT

For comment on DANBY see para.12. When he was interviewed in 1971 DANBY said that he had never really been out of touch with Flora SOLOMON after he went abroad in 1942. He got news of her through the WEIZMANNs and through his sister and brother-in-law and sent news to her through them. When he was in England in 1945 and when he was on leave subsequently he frequently saw her. He

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3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958

MARCH 2022

TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

- 16 -

did not think that he had ever not seen her for a period of more than two years.

48. In November 1969 Peter Wright met the KGB defector KAGO. KAGO asked how we had learned about PHILBY other than from his information. He was told that it was Flora SOLOMON's evidence which, added to his own, clinched the case. KAGO then asked whether we were sure that Flora SOLOMON was not under Russian control. He judged that the RIS would have assessed that he had enough information to prove the case against PHILBY. They would, therefore, have been anxious to withdraw PHILBY as he undoubtedly knew other important agents in the UK. If he was unwilling to go to Russia the RIS might have had to pressure him and KAGO said that it was possible that Flora SOLOMON had been briefed to pass on the story she did to ensure that we had enough evidence to prove the case.

#### Assessment

49. Either Flora SOLOMON's story is largely the truth although she may have known and done rather more than she admits to, or she has been up to the neck in espionage. In either case she is a figure of central importance in the story of the Ring of Five, and it is important that we should understand her.

50. She was barely known to this Service until she came forward in 1962 claiming to have known that PHILBY was a spy practically from the beginning of his career. As a result we have hardly any contemporary information for the 1930s and 1940s and very little comment from others to assist us in judging her story. In these circumstances all we can do is to see whether by stringing together all the information we have we can make a credible story consistent with what we know of her personality and background.

51. Flora SOLOMON was brought up in immediately pre-Revolution Russia in a wealthy Jewish family. At the age of 17 she came to Western Europe and the rest of her formative years were spent in the world of emigre intrigue which centred on London and Paris during the twenties and thirties. National loyalties could have had little meaning for her, the daughter of a Russian Jew of possible Bolshevik sympathies, married at 21 to an English Jew and later the mistress of the exiled Liberal leader Alexander KERENSKY, at that time scheming the overthrow of the Bolsheviks in Paris. It would not be surprising if she hardly knew whose side she was on and took intrigue for granted. The only consistent element in her background was Jewry and later Zionism, itself a world of shifting frontiers which could lead one from one year to the next into different attitudes to the Great Powers, including Russia and England, or even to one's friends.

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ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

TOP SECRET

/52.....



TOP SECRET

- 17 -

52. Flora SOLOMON's personality emerges from our own observation of her and from the account of others including her sister and Lord ROTHSCCHILD as dominating, extrovert, and driving but also arrogant and egocentric. She is obviously a woman of considerable mental energy but has, if her sister is to be believed, an area of her mind of "vast and limitless stupidity", making it possible for her to be under the control of dangerous people without realising it. She is also a woman who loves flattery and likes to have people around her, people whom she can patronise and who are to an extent dependent on her like Aileen PHILBY, as well as enjoying and cultivating the acquaintance of important people.

53. Given this background and personality I find it possible to believe that the story she told us in 1962 is substantially true. Flora SOLOMON said that she suspected PHILBY's double role at the time of the Spanish Civil War but that he first confided in her in 1938 at a time when he was feeling particularly vulnerable and at the same time asked her to help him in his espionage work. PHILBY might well have made such an approach, at a time when we knew he was recruiting for the RIS, to a person of cosmopolitan background such as hers with a wide circle of acquaintances. Particularly as according to other people they were emotionally involved, although on her story this was only on his side.

54. Nor is Flora SOLOMON's account of her reaction to this approach psychologically unlikely given the sort of person she is and the life she was then leading. She would have us believe she was neither surprised nor shocked by this revelation being herself in any case sympathetic to Russia at the time but that she brushed aside PHILBY's request for help saying that she was not interested in such work and was in any case too busy with her other concerns. She does not deny, however, that she did in fact help him, not specifically by undertaking any particular task, but in general by allowing him to introduce his friends into her social circle and by herself acting as what amounted almost to a personnel adviser to him, her profession in "real" life. She helped him in this way even though, according to her story, her sympathies for Russia had evaporated with the Molotov/Ribbentrop Pact. She implied that at the time she never asked herself the purpose of the introductions, being in any case at the time wrapped up in her own hectically busy life, but that looking back she was fairly sure they were vetting exercises preliminary to recruitment approaches. It is consistent with the psychology of a certain kind of woman that she may well become involved with things which excite her emotionally so long as she is not compelled to face facts about them.

55. So far this account of Flora SOLOMON's personality

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TOP SECRET

- 18 -

and motives is just plausible. However if one is to believe<sup>x</sup> it is necessary to explain why she came forward with her story about PHILBY just when she did.

56. In 1962 this Service's suspicions of PHILBY had hardened as a result of KAGO's information. It seems likely, therefore, that it would at that time have been an aim of the RIS to get PHILBY and the information he possessed to Russia and out of our reach, and there is in fact reason to think that he was unwilling to go. All we needed at that time to close our case and make us act was the sort of confirmation which Flora SOLOMON's story provided. If the Russians could tell PHILBY we had this confirmation they could more readily persuade him to defect. Thus the question arises whether Flora SOLOMON was prompted by the Russians to come forward when she did, as indeed KAGO suggested, and if so how far she was conscious of this.

57. It is just possible to believe that Flora SOLOMON might have come forward for the combination of reasons which she gave i.e. that she was getting old and wanted to clear her conscience; that she was disillusioned with Russia and that PHILBY was actively working against Israeli interests in the Arab countries as evinced by his articles in 'The Observer'. But it is hard indeed to understand why having kept her story to herself so long she came forward with it at a time which appears to be so consonant with Russian interests.

58. However it is possible to suppose that her action was inspired by the Russians but that she was not aware that this was so. They could have approached her through her Zionist loyalties.  
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ACT 1958 March 2022

59. It is quite possible that some similar approach could have been inspired by the RIS under Israeli cover. This possibility is strengthened by the visit made to the Middle East in July and August 1962 by Yuriy MODIN, a visit made for a reason we do not know but can guess to have been connected in some way with PHILBY.

60. It would not have been difficult for someone to have suggested to Flora SOLOMON that PHILBY was actively working against Israel, with what she already knew of his background and of his father, added to his presence at the time in the Arab countries and his past and possibly current involvement with his father in arms trafficking (we have indications of this in 1955). Nor would it have been

TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

- 19 -

difficult to convince her that the best way to stop his activities once and for all was to come and tell us all about him. If her approach to us had some such background as this it might account for the rather unsatisfactory reason she eventually gave for having come forward - the articles in 'The Observer'. Although her real reason might have been a combination of that and other things she might not for obvious reasons have wanted to reveal all she had been told.

61. It is certainly not difficult to imagine why it would have occurred to the Russians to use Flora SOLOMON as an agent for their purposes. During the mutual examination they must have had with PHILBY during the years when he was under suspicion and trying to recover it must have come out, (if it was not already known to them) that she was in a position to betray him. By using her in this way they would have turned to their own advantage what had been a potential source of danger to them.

62. Thus Flora SOLOMON's approach to us in 1962 might well have been motivated as she thought and indeed partly told us by pro-Zionist zeal. It is not necessary to suppose that if what she did was convenient to the Russians she knew about it.

63. There is, however, another indication which appears to run contrary to Flora SOLOMON's own story. This is the letter which Anthony BLUNT said, in 1965, that he found among BURGESS's papers after the defection in 1951 (para.27). In the first place BLUNT claimed to be unable to remember Flora SOLOMON's name although he made it pretty clear by hints and indications whom he meant. He thought he had been to her flat once for a drink although he had no clear recollection. Flora SOLOMON on the other hand claimed to know him very well. In the second place on Flora's own account she knew BURGESS very well and at one point indeed he lived in her house in Addison Road, after she moved to Carrington House, until she threw him out because of his anti-Jewish remarks. If this is true it is hard to credit that so wary an operator as PHILBY would have written a letter connecting both him and her to BURGESS when he could just as easily have said what he wanted to say, or if he had would not have taken steps to recover and obliterate it in the years between 1940 and 1951. So this queer tale is either irrelevant to Flora SOLOMON because it does not relate to her or more likely it throws considerable doubt on the reliability of BLUNT's evidence. There are many reasons why BLUNT might have invented the existence of such a letter. He might, for example, have been acting under Russian control to discredit Flora SOLOMON so that we would disbelieve any further information she might reveal now she had served their purposes. Or, as part of a continuing effort to find material to give us without implicating any of his friends or telling us anything new, he might have made up the story knowing, possibly from Lord ROTHSCHILD, of Flora's information to us. Whatever

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TOP SECRET

- 20 -

the explanation of this story I do not regard it as in itself sufficient reason to disbelieve Flora SOLOMON's story.

64. If Flora SOLOMON's story is substantially true and if she came forward in 1962 either for the reasons she gave or as an unconscious agent of the Russians she must have been afraid afterwards of the Russians taking some form of revenge on her. Her behaviour at least since 1966 has seemed to indicate that she was indeed in a state of trepidation and in fact she told her sister in November 1966 that she was afraid of a plot to harrass her by blackmail and scandal.

It could also explain her apparently irrational fixation that Dudley DANBY is a Russian spy. If she had in her mind already the fear that she might be approached by an agent of the Russians it is not difficult to see how she might have become persuaded that DANBY was he, remembering that DANBY had known PHILBY in the 1940s, that he was a close friend of PHILBY's father and that he appeared to be on close terms with PHILBY in the Middle East in the 1960s at a time when she thought or had been persuaded that PHILBY was the centre of a group of professional spies and working against Israeli interests.

65. So, to sum up, Flora SOLOMON's story is just about satisfactory when examined alongside all the other information we have. There is not a shred of hard evidence to disprove it, although we cannot exclude her knowing considerably more than she has told us.

66. On the other hand it cannot be denied that there is a great deal about it that seems very fishy and that her whole background renders it possible that she could have been very deeply involved in espionage in the 1930s and 1940s, although we have no evidence to prove it. She was in and out of Paris during the 1930s when Paris was a centre for Russian espionage activity; she had a large circle of acquaintances and always crowds of people around her which could have been used as a cover for some activity; she knew several people whom we know were involved in espionage; she knew Lizy PHILBY well and continued seeing her after she had ceased to live with PHILBY. There is no reason however to suppose that she played a significant role after the '40s.

67. However if she had been deeply involved in the 1930s and 1940s it seems on the face of it unlikely that the Russians would have brought her to our attention in 1962, for any reason, when we knew so little about her.

68. Whatever the truth of her story Flora SOLOMON

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- 21 -

certainly knows a good deal more than she has told us and this seems a good time to make another attempt to find it out. In the first place she is getting old now and the opportunity to talk to her will soon be lost. Also with the latest DANBY interview and our other researches we now know a good deal more about the background to her case than we did when she was first seen. There is, however, little point in approaching her again unless we can find some way of persuading her to talk more freely than she has so far been prepared to do. If our interpretation of her character is correct she is a fairly conceited old lady and I think that if it could be hinted to her that there is a possibility that she has been used by the Russians she might be prepared to talk to us out of sheer pique.

*Sella Rimington*

S. Rimington

K.3/8

---

4 November 1971

TOP SECRET



**TOP SECRET** ANNEX AGrigori Ossopovitch BENENSON(SZ/2117)

Born: 9.5.1860 in Petrograd.  
 Wife: Sophie  
 Children: Fira  
           Flora (PF.604,692) born 28.9.98.  
           Marie (PF.749,454) born 8.4.1905.

The following information comes from SZ/2117, a joint file for BENENSON and the Lena Goldfelds.

2. BENENSON is reported to have come to England originally from Russia via Germany and Denmark in 1915. (From other sources it appears that he was accompanied by his wife and three daughters.) He had gone to Germany for medical treatment after acid had been thrown over him in a train in Russia in April, 1914 by a woman who claimed that she had had a child by him. When the war started he was in Germany and was eventually sent out in 1915.

3. Before coming to England BENENSON had been Chairman of the Russian and English Bank Ltd., Petrograd. He became Chairman of the Directors of the Russian and English Bank in London, a Director of Lena Goldfelds Ltd. and of the Imperial and Foreign Corporation. In January, 1919 he opened a business in New York, G. BENENSON & Co. Ltd. whose main office was in London and whose interests were in Russian railroad and mining operations.

4. BENENSON went to Sweden on business in July, 1916, returned to England and in June, 1917 went to Russia with despatches. He arrived in England again from the Continent in January, 1919 with his wife and three daughters.

5. In 1919 a report was received that BENENSON was a Bolshevik agent of importance. The story was that three unscrupulous financiers had been sent abroad by the Soviet Government in 1918 with large sums of smuggled Russian roubles at their disposal. Their purpose according to the report was to purchase foreign currency and use it for propaganda to spread Bolshevism abroad. Of the three agents one went to Stockholm, one to Copenhagen and one, BENENSON, came to London. The accuracy of this report seems never to have been established.

6. Conflicting reports about BENENSON's business standing were received in about 1920. Some said that he was wealthy and connected with a series of respectable companies and others maintained vehemently that he was a sly and shady businessman, aided and abetted by his wife, who dealt with the Bolsheviks (a thing no respectable businessman would do at that time). This latter view gained support from a reported statement of the Bolshevik Government in April, 1920 that money could be transferred to and from England via the Anglo-Russian bank (of which BENENSON was a Director).

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**TOP SECRET**

- 2 -

7. By 1925 BENENSON had become a U.S. citizen.

8. In 1925 the Lena Goldfields Co., a firm apparently British, of which, however, BENENSON was the largest shareholder and in which BENENSON's son-in-law Col. SOLOMON also held shares, was granted a concession by the Soviet Government to exploit the goldfields in Siberia. At the time it was claimed by certain informed people that the concession was worthless as it would be impossible to work a company in the Soviet Union at that time because of the disturbed political and economic state of the country. It was suggested:

- (a) that the concession was granted by the Soviet Government merely to lure foreign capital into Russia at a time when the Banks of England, France and Germany were withholding credit from the Soviet Union, and
- (b) that certain people in the Lena Goldfields Co. (i.e. BENENSON and his friends) were trying to boost the shares artificially by appearing to have won a valuable concession which was in fact worthless.

9. Events seem to have confirmed these doubts for, after continuous financial troubles, in December, 1929 the O.G.P.U. raided the Lena offices and the homes of their employees as, it later turned out, the first move in the appropriation of the Company and its assets by the Soviet Government. During 1936 a show trial of three Russian employees of the Company was held during which they confessed to economic and political espionage on behalf of the British Government. One of the witnesses at the trial described BENENSON as a Stock Exchange speculator in the confidence of the British Intelligence Service and the three accused employees as his chosen helpmates.

10. The Lena Goldfields Co. took their case to an Arbitration Court which awarded them £13 m compensation against the Soviet Government, a sum which was, of course, never paid. BENENSON's name does not appear at all in the accounts of the Arbitration proceedings and the file ends in December, 1933 without further mention of him.

11. It is difficult to know from this rather mysterious and incomplete story what the purpose of Grigori BENENSON's activities in England in the 1920s was. It is possible that he may have been, as some reports suggest, a high grade Bolshevik agent charged with aiding the Soviet Government to secure its financial position in the world. Or he may have been merely an unscrupulous businessman whose only concern was for his own financial advantage. Whatever the truth of the story there is no doubt that he must have had considerable knowledge of the Soviet Government's undercover activities in England in the 1920s.

**TOP SECRET**



TOP SECRET

ANNEX B

Alexander Feodorovich KERENSKY

(PFR.52)

Born: 22.4.1881 in Russia

Died: 1970.

The following information comes from KERENSKY's file; the volumes covering the period 1933 to 1940 were burned.

2. Alexander KERENSKY was President of the Temporary Government of Russia in 1917. In May, 1918 when the Bolsheviks came to power he fled and was allowed to come to England in transit to France. It was considered that though his presence in England might be embarrassing his life was in danger in Russia and he had been a true friend of the Allies. During the 1920s and 1930s he was a leader of anti-Bolshevik Russians in Europe and had his Headquarters in Paris.

3. By 1949 KERENSKY was living in the U.S.A. and working at New York University as lecturer in Social Sciences. In New York he formed the KERENSKY League with the backing of American Jewish "progressive" elements.

4. He died in 1970.

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**TOP SECRET**ANNEX CMarie HARARINée BENENSON

(PF.749,454)

Born: 8.4.1905 in Baku Russia.  
 Nat: British  
 Died: 24.9.1969.  
 Addresses: 32 Catherine Place, S.W.1.  
 Occupation: Publisher, Harvill Press Ltd.  
 Married: 29.10.1925: Ralph Andrew HARARI  
                     Born Cairo 28.10.1892  
                     Died 1969.  
                     (PF.605,726 destroyed.  
                     [REDACTED])  
                     Banker.

For many years, until her death in 1969, Marie HARARI worked for Harvill Press, a subsidiary of Collins the publishers. She was mainly concerned with editing and publishing Russian works, many of which originated from behind the Iron Curtain. She translated into English 'Dr. Zhivago' and several other works by Russian authors.

2. In the course of her work Mrs. HARARI made several visits to Russia, the first we know of being in October, 1955. In 1956 in the course of one of these visits she was discovered travelling within Russia without authorisation and consequently was not permitted to extend her visa<sup>a visa for</sup>. In 1959 when she applied for another visit to Russia it was reportedly not granted.

[REDACTED]

4. In July, 1959 Mrs. HARARI's business partner suspected that certain domestics in the HARARI household were agents of the Russian Embassy, one possible reason being, she thought, that Mrs. HARARI saw (in the course of her work), many people coming from behind the Iron Curtain, including refugees, and also prospective visitors to Russia.

[REDACTED]

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6. In 1960 and 1961 Mrs. HARARI had various contacts with the emigre organisation N.T.S., dedicated to the overthrow of the Communist government in Russia. She was first in contact with them in 1960 because she thought they might be handling interesting literary manuscripts from Russia. In 1961 she was asked by them to take a film and other things into Russia. She did so, and while carrying them was searched and interrogated but nothing was found. In 1965 at the time of Gerald BROOKE's trial she was named in the Soviet Press as a person who had distributed anti-Soviet propaganda for N.T.S.

7. From August, 1964 until 1965 Mrs. HARARI was in fairly close social contact with BOYAROV the K.G.B. Deputy Resident in London and his wife. He had helped her in a project to invite a Russian literary figure to England. When the Russian Press revelations about Mrs. HARARI were made in 1965 the contact was broken off and the BOYAROVs left the U.K.

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142a.

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139a  
140a .

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PF.604692

138a

NOTE FOR FILE

The following information was obtained from the Army Papers of Harold Josiah SOLOMON, husband of Flora SOLOMON:

Lt. Col. Harold Josiah SOLOMON, O.B.E., M.C.,  
 Born: 19 January 1886 at Cambridge House,  
 Ladbroke Grove, London  
 Died: 31 July 1930 at Valmont, Glion,  
 Switzerland  
 Father: Henry Josiah SOLOMON, Stock dealer  
 Mother: Frances SOLOMON née SOLOMON  
 Addresses: 1904: 42 Hyde Park Gate,  
 London, S.W.  
 (father's address)  
 1917: 3 Campden House Terrace,  
 Kensington  
 Jan British Embassy,  
 1920: Rome  
 1921: Dept. of Controller of  
 Stores, Russian Buildings,  
 Jerusalem

Education: 1897-1904: Clifton College

Military Service: August 1905: 2nd Lt. 18th Hussars  
 October 1907: 2nd Lt. Army Service  
 Corps  
 October 1908: Lt. Army Service  
 Corps  
 August 1914: Captain, Army Service  
 Corps  
 1914-18: Temp. Major, Army Service  
 Corps  
 1918-19: Temp. Lt. Col., Army  
 Service Corps  
 Jan 1920: Resigned. Granted rank  
 of Lt. Col.  
 Postings: 1917: D.A.Q.M.G. The  
 Cyclist Division,  
 Salonika

/Other.....

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- 2 -

Other information: 1930: Chairman of Anglo-Palestinian Club, 13  
Warwick Court, London,  
W.C.1.

*Sella Rimington*  
S. Rimington

K.3/8

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29.9.71



Reference... LOOSE MINUTE~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

137a

F.2/A.4

Bill Pratt rang you this morning to ask if you could trace the army papers of an officer who died about 1924, whose regiment we did not know. Since Bill spoke to you we have discovered the regiment, which will I hope make the enquiry easier. I attach a note giving all the details we have.

*S. Rimington*

S. Rimington

K.3/8

14th September, 1971

Penny

pl. hold this; I have asked Jacks to trace any PP there may be.

CODE 18-78

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F2/102/17.

16.5.71  
K3/4.10.71



CONFIDENTIAL

Lt. Col. Harold Josiah SOLOMON

Born: 21.1.1888

Died: c. 1924

Regiment: 18th Hussars and R.A.S.C.

Address - 1924: 19 Campden House Rd.,  
Kensington.

Married, June, 1919, in London:  
Flora BENENSON

c. 1922: In Palestine - connected in  
some way with Sir Herbert SAMUEL,  
British High Commissioner to  
Palestine.

CONFIDENTIAL



135A

Reference..... PF.604,692.....

Copy to:PF.604,584

Note for File

Reference s.134a, I went down to the newspaper library at Colindale today to look at copies of the Observer. I went through editions of the Observer for the nine months from October 1st, 1961 to July 8th, 1962. In that period there were very few references at all to the Middle East situation and only four items of any kind signed by H.A.R. PHILBY.

2. On October 1st, 1961 the main front page news concerned the new Syrian regime and its move to expel Egyptians. The last part of the report consisted of cabled comment from PHILBY from Beirut suggesting that the news might result in the immediate dissolution of the United Arab Republic and that it put Nasser's own position of supremacy in the Arab countries in doubt.

3. On October 8th, 1961 there was a front page report headed "The Russians Recognise New Syrian Regime", and a cable from PHILBY from Beirut. The front page report referred one to an article on pages 6 and 7. This article was headed "Syria Today. Why Nasser Shifted his Position" and was signed by PHILBY. On the adjoining page was a companion article "The New Men in Damascus", presumably also by PHILBY, copiously illustrated with photographs by Stuart Heydinger.

4. In the Observer of March 18th, 1962, on one of the inside pages, was a fairly short column headed "Israel's 'Reprisal' on Syria" from our correspondent in Jerusalem March 17th. This described an action on the eastern shore of Lake Galilee in which thirty Syrians and five Israelis were killed, calling it "the fiercest and biggest Israeli/Arab clash since the 1956 Sinai campaign, involving heavy artillery and the Air Force". At the end of this report was a sub-heading "Cause of Fighting" and a passage signed by PHILBY. PHILBY wrote that the clashes told of mounting Arab anxiety as Israel pushed forward her plan to draw water from Lake Tiberias. He maintained that this was a first step in a deliberate campaign to deprive the Arabs of all use of the water of the Jordan and also to channel salt water springs directly into the Jordan to prejudice a huge Jordan irrigation scheme.

5. On July 8th, 1962, the last number examined, there was a report from Nora Beloff from Brussels about the Six falling out with their African partners. Immediately beneath this was a report from PHILBY from Cairo, dated July 7th, maintaining that non-Common Market countries, whose representatives were assembled in Cairo for a conference, were not hostile to the Market and that the U.A.R. was one of the more responsible participating powers. This would seem to have no bearing on Flora's theme, except that it showed PHILBY praising the U.A.R., and was in any case too late to influence her reporting.

/6. Of the four . . .

6/1/65  
11/1/69  
F.S. Mac  
7/7/71



Reference.....

- 2 -

2 6. Of the four signed reports by PHILBY the one of March 8th described in paragraph 4 above was the only one which could be described as specifically anti-Jewish and the last of any kind by him to appear before the date of Flora SOLOMON's reporting to us through Victor ROTHSCCHILD (July 5th, 1962).

7. In the period I looked at (October, 1961 to early July, 1962) there were also two items

- (i) on 12 November, 1961, an item in "The Week" reporting on Jewry and the Kremlin which gave an account of the imprisonment of three Leningrad Jews
- (ii) on 3rd December, 1961 - an article by Edward Crankshaw in the series "Russia Today" entitled "Complex Key to Anti-Semitism"

which might well have aroused Flora SOLOMON's anger as a Jew, anger against the Russians in general rather than against PHILBY in particular. They might certainly have helped her to take particular offence when, three months later, on March 18th, 1962, (see paragraph 4 above), he published his account of acts of Jewish violence against the Arab world.

8. The statement of Flora SOLOMON which I quoted at 134a, that she said that PHILBY was "now writing violently anti-Israel articles and she believed that he was doing this on Russian instructions" is taken from 57a in volume 1. 57a is a note by D of 5th July, 1962, recording the handing over to the D.G. by C of a note about a report made to ROTHSCCHILD by Flora. The quoted statement appears, therefore, to be probably fourth-hand, from Flora to Lord ROTHSCCHILD to C to the D.G. to D, and might have become slightly changed in its passage from one to the other.

9. The next reference to the matter of Flora's motive in reporting is recorded at 66b, which is a transcript of a meeting arranged between ROTHSCCHILD and Flora as a result of the original report; "Questioned as to what had happened to bring about the decision to talk, Mrs. SOLOMON said it was no definite item, but the fact that she had become disillusioned with Russia. She was getting older and would like to clear her conscience". No mention of newspaper articles.

10. The next mention of her motive is at 71a, Arthur Martin's note of his interview with her following her talk with Lord ROTHSCCHILD; "If she is to be believed, Mrs. SOLOMON's motive in coming forward at this late date derives partly from the

/pessimistic view . . .



Reference.....

- 3 -

pessimistic view she takes of the world situation (not very convincing) and partly from her belief that PHILBY is still working for the Russians and, on their instructions, writing anti-Israel propaganda (which I believe to be her true motive). She cited the recent articles which he has written in the Observer about President Nasser of Egypt. At the end of the interview she appealed to me to do all I could to put a stop to these articles".

11. This interview of Arthur Martin's is recorded in transcript form at 78a and this matter of motive is treated in pages 36 to 38. She stated that "since last year, you see, I have read one or two articles of Kim's". She went on to mention the article of July 22nd (which she could not have read before she reported) and added that as a result of her reading, when she saw Victor in Israel "with this situation of Israel surrounded by seven Arab countries and the danger of that little country and so on . . . and here sits Kim, you see, pro-Arab, you see, . . . Kim is obviously pro-Arab, pro-Russian . . . I suddenly sort of tied the whole thing and impulsively . . . that night I said to Victor".

12. The timing appears to be this:

October 1st, 1961:	Front page news about the Arab world and a cable from PHILBY.
October 8th, 1961	Front page news about the Russians and the Arab world and a cable from PHILBY. Main feature article by PHILBY.
12th November, 1961	Report in "The Week" about Russian illtreatment of Jews.
December 3rd, 1961	Article by Edward Crankshaw on Russian anti-Semitism.
March/8th, 1962	Report on Israel/Arab border clash suggesting Israeli violence and a comment by PHILBY suggesting long term Israeli scheme to undermine Arab means of livelihood.
? Between March and ? July, 1962	Visit by Flora to Israel where the position seemed to her that the tiny country of Israel was in a state of siege from surrounding larger Arab neighbours. She reports to Victor.

/July 5th, 1962 . . .

710a in  
v.14 of  
PF.604,584



Reference.....

- 4 -

July 5th, 1962

Victor's report comes through  
to us.Conclusions

13. For a woman who feels as deeply as Flora SOLOMON about the Jewish question, it seems to me that there was enough material in the Observer (apart from what she may have seen elsewhere in the press, not necessarily by PHILBY) in the months before her action to cause her to wish to interfere with the one aspect of Russian actions in the Middle East over which she might have some control, namely PHILBY and his journalism. The specific article she mentioned did not appear in the Observer until July 22nd, 1962, the article about Nasser, but it is perhaps not surprising that this was the one she mentioned to Arthur as the date of their meeting was 1st August, just ten days later. She implied that there had also been earlier items in the press and there would seem to be just enough evidence of this to support her theory. If she had been under instruction from the Russians to come forward at this particular time she would, of course, have had to concoct a plausible cover story for her action at that moment very much like the one she in fact told. But given the kind of woman she is, I think her story, as she tells it, is feasible.

*B. Palliser.*  
B. Palliser

K3/6

5th July, 1971



**SECRET**

134d

## Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF 604,692 Name SOLOMON

Original in File No. PF 63,349 Vol.8. Serial 481a Dated 9.2.71.

Date and Place of Interview/Meeting Wolf SUSCHITSKY's flat-6, Maida Avenue, Friday, 5.2.71.,  
in the afternoon at approx. 1.50pm.

with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Mrs. Edith TUDOR-HART (1932 & 1933: Member of the  
Russian Intelligence Service in Austria & Italy)

Subject Information re Mrs. Edith TUDOR-HART, given by ANTENNA

Officer Miss E. McBarnet & P.M. Wright K3z & K. Adv

Extracted by KOD using (a) of Section R.5. Date 8.9.71.

12. Questioned again about "Arnold" she replied "he said he was working for - - no I do not remember." (It seemed probable that she did in fact remember his overt employment here.) Asked what nationality he was she said she thought he was Austrian. She supposed she spoke to him in German but she did not remember and he might have spoken English. Asked if he knew Lizzy she said "No" she knew Lizzy much later. She was now shown all the photographs and appeared very ready to look at them. She identified the following photographs:-

B84 \*\*\*

\*\*\* B84 - Flora Solomon

\*Strike out inapplicable.

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4/10/71



134b  
134c.

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134A

Reference PF.604,692

Copied to: PF.604,584 Supp H.

Note for File

Reference 131a, it seems to me very reasonable, supposing Flora SOLOMON to have been a Russian agent in the 1930's and possibly later, and supposing her to have been working for the Russians primarily because she was a Jew and therefore anti-Fascist, that when, in the late 1950's, Russian support came to be given to the Arab world against Israel, any residual loyalty she might have for the Russians would fade and only her basic, pro-Jewish loyalty would remain. In that case, her reporting on PHILBY in July, 1962 could well have been the result of a final decision taken after several years of brooding and indecision. When she spoke to Victor ROTHSCCHILD (presumably shortly before 5.7.62., since he reported it on that date) she said that PHILBY was "now writing violently anti-Israel articles and she believed that he was doing this on Russian instructions". The only article in our file, entitled "Nasser's Pride and Glory", appeared in the "Observer" on 22.7.62. - over a fortnight later. The theory expounded at 131a could to some extent be tested by research in editions of the "Observer" (and possibly other papers to which PHILBY contributed) prior to Flora's accusations to Victor ROTHSCCHILD, i.e. prior to 5.7.62.

B. Palliser

B. Palliser

K.3.

14th July, 1970.

14/7/70



133a

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132a

Reference PF 605,565

copy to: PF 607,283  
✓ PF 604,692NOTE FOR FILE

I saw Lord Rothschild for breakfast today at his request. He was anxious to find out the state of negotiations to get him a false passport. I told him the outlook was very bleak and he had better talk to Sir Dick White about it.

2. Victor went on to say that he did not know whether Flora SOLOMON was going round the bend or not, but that she was pestering him about Dudley DANBY, saying that she was convinced that he was a spy, that she was very frightened that he after many years had made persistent attempts to get in touch with her. I asked Victor what he thought of Flora's bona fides. He said that it was not surprising if it turned out that she was in some way muddled up with the Russians. He had never understood how Flora had associated so closely with so many spies, had been so very prose over it and yet had escaped their clutches. I told Victor about the letter that BLUNT says that he destroyed when he helped to search BURGESS's flat after the defection in 1951. (This letter was a letter from PHILBY to BURGESS telling him that if he was ever in dire trouble to take the letter to Flora, who would help). Victor's reaction to this was there might well be something odd about Flora. On the other hand, he could not explain why she had shopped PHILBY in 1962 if she was still involved with the Russians, furthermore why she was trying to shop DANBY now. I said that as far as DANBY was concerned, he was probably of little further use to the Russians if he were a spy, and the Russians might be wanting to distract us from other targets. Victor said he would keep me informed of any further developments.

P. M. Wright

K Adviser

27 January 1970.

L  
9/5



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131a

PF.808,466 Link B

✓ Copied to: PF.604,692

Copied to PF.604,584 Supp H

NOTE FOR FILE

Further to the note at 35a, I wish to record a discussion I had with KAGO on Tuesday 18th November about the bona fides of Flora SOLOMON.

2. KAGO raised the matter with me in discussion about how PHILBY might have been tipped off in 1962. I told him that Yuri MODIN had visited the Middle East in September 1962. He asked me when and how we first learnt about PHILBY specifically other than his own serial about him. I said that a woman called Flora SOLOMON had approached an ex-member of this office in Israel, saying that she knew that PHILBY was a Russian spy because he had tried to recruit her before the war. She had been seen in England by Arthur Martin on August 1st 1962 and it was her evidence together with KAGO's that had clinched the case. In September MODIN had visited the Middle East and we know from Mrs. PHILBY that some time shortly after this PHILBY became very upset and agitated and began drinking heavily.

3. KAGO asked the question whether we were sure that Flora SOLOMON was not under Russian control. He said that it was very clear that she had been involved with PHILBY before the war and that she might not be telling the truth when she said that she had not agreed to work for PHILBY.

Comment: I did not tell KAGO, but one has to take into account the letter that BLUNT told us about which was amongst BURGESS' books after BURGESS went, which was a letter from PHILBY to BURGESS telling him that if ever he was in dire trouble he could take this letter to Flora SOLOMON who would help him. BLUNT claims he destroyed this letter.

I told KAGO that this was possible but that I could not see a motive for the Russians shopping PHILBY. KAGO said that in his view the K.G.B. would have assessed that he had sufficient information to give us to enable us to prove the PHILBY case. If PHILBY knew, as undoubtedly he did, other important agents in the United Kingdom the K.G.B. would be anxious to withdraw PHILBY as soon as possible. KAGO asked was it possible that the K.G.B. had tried to persuade PHILBY to go to Russia and PHILBY had refused to go. PHILBY might well have argued with the K.G.B. that the evidence that KAGO had was not strong enough to be a real danger to him. The K.G.B. would not have believed this but would have been unable to have made PHILBY defect without further pressure.

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/KAGO

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-2-

KAGO said was it possible that Flora SOLOMON had been briefed to pass on the story she did in order to ensure that we had the evidence to prove the PHILBY case.

4. KAGO went on to say that the implication of this theory was that the K.G.B. had sufficient penetration that they could control our action over PHILBY so that we would not recall him and arrest him but probably do what we in fact did do.

*Pls. n. 5-10*

K. Adviser

P.M. Wright.

24.11.69.

TOP SECRET



Recd: 3.11.69  
 PA: PF 604, 692, 30a  
 Original in: PF 605, 565  
 Copied to: PF 607, 283

(28.10.69)

Mrs. Solomon wanted to see me to say that Dudley Danby's behaviour towards her made her suspicious. I deliberately did not probe deeply as to what sort of suspicion she had but, for obvious reasons, they were concerned with the possibility of Danby engaging in intelligence activities. Mrs. Solomon said it was inconceivable that these could be on behalf of Israel. She had nothing to say as to whether they might be on behalf of Great Britain. I don't think either of these was in her mind.

She said that a long while ago Dudley Danby had been connected, I think through the British Council, with Lord Lloyd. She implied that Lord Lloyd and Dudley Danby were homosexuals.

She said Lord Lloyd and Dr. Weizmann were friendly and that Dudley Danby became very intimate (not in the homosexual sense) with Dr. Weizmann. She implied that Dr. Weizmann's friendliness with Dudley Danby was due to his wish to become more closely associated with Lord Lloyd. She was, however, a bit confused on this point and, for example, said something to the following effect: "You know that when Dr. Weizmann really took someone into his confidence, he told them his innermost thoughts and aspirations."

She did not enlarge on her own relationships with Dudley Danby, but I gained the impression that at that time, she must have known him fairly well.

For many years Mrs. Solomon and Dudley Danby never saw each other. Then, out of the blue, quite recently, he sent her a postcard from Israel, attached. She could not remember whether the postcard was sent this year or last year, but said she supposed this could be checked by the postage stamp. She was surprised to get this postcard after so many years silence and separation.

Then he sent her some flowers at the Jewish New Year, this year. Mrs. Solomon put great emphasis <sup>on the fact that</sup> that only the most intimate friends did this. (I did not know if this was true.) Then she got a note from him when her sister died.

All this seemed to her to add up to Dudley Danby wanting to establish contact with her. What could be the reason? It made her feel uneasy and frightened.

I asked her whether she had any views as to what might be done. She did not want to see Mr. Peter Wright and said he was the man who burst into her dear sister's room in the nursing home.



-2-

I said I would think about it and make a few enquiries.

During our discussion Mrs. Solomon mentioned that Dudley Danby had seen Philby in Beirut (I think it was Beirut, but in any case I am sure it was somewhere in that part of the world) and had told her he was well. This must make it possible to get some time structure into what is said above.

Vn

1st November, 1969



11 HERSCHEL ROAD  
CAMBRIDGE  
CB3 9AG  
TELEPHONE 50488

129a  
Pain  
PF 605565

Copy to  
PF 604692 ✓

25th October, 1969

Recd: 27.10.69.

Dear Peter

I returned from America today and  
found the enclosed letter waiting for me. I  
am trying to make a date.

✓

✓

K3/KAT



103. CARRINGTON HOUSE.  
HERTFORD STREET.  
LONDON. W.1.  
MAYFAIR 2467.

20th October, 1969.

Dear Victor,

It is a long time since we saw or  
heard from each other.

. Now I have a new problem which might  
or might not be important and which puzzles me.

I am going to Israel at the beginning  
of November and would like to consult you before  
I leave, if you have a little time to spare.

Do give me a ring when you are in town  
and when we could meet.

Yours ever  
Flora (Solomon)



**TOP SECRET**

128A

## Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF 604692 Name SOLOMON

Original in File No. PF 605565 Serial ..... Dated 11.7.69

Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting K.3/PMW had drinks with Lord & Lady ROTHSCHILD  
with (also give security context of person being interviewed) at their flat, 23 St. James Place, or  
10th July 1969.

Subject Various persons of interest to K.3

Officer Peter Wright using @ of ..... Section K.3

Extracted by K.S. Section K.3 Date 14.7.69

.....

2. Victor ROTHSCHILD had said he had some information to give me for which I had asked some time ago. This was on the subject of Flora SOLOMON's income. In connection with the matter of her suing B.O.A.C. I had asked if he could find out for me whether she was hard up. He said he had managed to extract the following information from [REDACTED] that it was highly confidential and must be strictly guarded. Her present pension is £3250 per annum. In 1968 Marks & Spencer gave her a lump sum of £15,000. She also draws an annual salary of £1,000 as a consultant to Marks & Spencer.

.....

\*Strike out inapplicable.

S. Form 81C 3m 2.69

**TOP SECRET**K3/B  
31/7



127a.

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958.



PA on PF 604692  
Reference.....**TOP SECRET**

126A

Extract from note of interview with Lord  
and Lady ROTHSCHILD by K.3/PMW on Monday  
3rd March 1969.

Original on PF 605565 dated 14.3.69

Ext. for PF 604692 by K.3/KS on 25.3.69

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.....

9. I asked Victor whether he had seen Flora  
SOLOMON lately. He said he had not. I told  
him, without mentioning OPSONIC, about Flora's  
action pending against B.O.A.C. I told him that  
I thought Flora had been right about Dudley DANBY.

.....

CODE 18-75

K.3

14.3.69

**TOP SECRET**

Peter M. Wright

K3/8  
26/3



124a

125a.

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ACT 1958.



123A

Reference PF 604692

Note for file

On 1.11.67 Mrs. Flora SOLOMON told D.3/Mr. Wright that a certain Dudley DANBY had been a close friend of Kim PHILBY when the latter was in Beirut in 1962. DANBY, she thought, was in the oil business. He had been a protege of Lord Lloyd of the British Council.

2. The enquiries to identify DANBY and the report of his interview by Mr. Wright on 9.1.69 are to be found in DANBY's file, PF 607283.

3. DANBY confirmed that he had known PHILBY, though Mr. Wright gained the impression he was not telling all he knew. DANBY also said that he had been a neighbour of Flora SOLOMON's in Carrington House during the war. Like Lord Lloyd and like Flora herself, he had been keen on Zionism and became one of her circle. He described her soirées, saying that she liked to collect round her young people who were associated with prominent people and through her he came to know Kim. DANBY expatiated at length on Flora's virtues, saying she was a remarkable woman whom he had much admired.

K.3  
27.1.69

B. Palliser.  
B. Palliser

CODE 18-76

K3/B  
27/1



122a

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S Form 81B 5m

D32716

EXTRACT

121A

Extract for File No.: P.F. 604,692 Name: SOLOMON

Original in File No.: P.F. 39,680 Vol.: 6 Serial: 362a Receipt Date: 1.6.68

Original from: [redacted] Under Ref: [redacted] Dated: 1.6.68

Extracted on: 1.7.68 by: JP Section: R.5

Extract from [redacted] 2nd interview with SMOLLETT (1961:  
 Suspected Russian Spy [redacted] M.I.5/M.L.B.W. on 10th Nov.  
 1968:

.....

19

.....

If the original is in the file of an individual, include the name of the file owner

I asked if he knew Flora Solomon; he answered yes, and explained that he had met her through his sister-in-law, Anita Kaufmann, having worked as a parlour-maid for the Sioffs, who were friends of the Solomons. X

20 He also met Manya Harari. <sup>JP 749,454</sup> Among Flora's friends he remembered (fnu) Istoriak and (fnu) Gostetner. He remembered that Flora had talked of Kim Philby at one time, and he was also aware that Flora had introduced Kim's second wife to him.

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.....  
 [Signature]  
 6.8.68



**TOP SECRET**

120A

Pa. in PF. 604,692 *SOLOMON*.  
Orig. in PF. 604,582, v. 12, ser. 618c dated 11.4.68.

Note for File

I saw Sir Anthony BLUNT on 8th April 1968.

2. With regard to the case of Phoebe POOL, I told him that I had seen Dr. PEDDER. BLUNT for his part said that he had seen Willie TOWNSEND.

.....

4. Phoebe had told Willie that he must not go to Carrington Street. BLUNT's comment on this was that the only Carrington Streets known to him were all in outer London. I thought it significant, however, that Carrington House is Flora SOLOMON's address. Phoebe had obviously given Willie the impression that this Carrington Street to which he must not go was some kind of rendezvous.

.....

D.3.

11.4.68.

signed Peter M. Wright

**TOP SECRET**

D3/SN1  
10/5/68



PERSONAL

SECRET

119

670

PP.604,692/D.3/PMW

15 January, 1968.

Dear [REDACTED]

You will remember that just before we went to Australia I discussed the problem of Flora SOLOMON with you. I am now faced with seeing her in the near future and we must come to a decision as to what I say to her.

2. Would you please review the case so that we can have an early meeting to discuss.

Yours ever,

P. M. Wright.

[REDACTED]

(in dup.)

PERSONAL

SECRET

23/PP  
15-1

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114a  
115a.

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